



May 2006 Gold Wing Road Riders Association

Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge		
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M A K E - A - D I F F E R E N C E

From The Region Director

Let me begin by welcoming and congratulating Lorraine and Earl Knight on their appointment as Northeast Region Assistants. Lorraine and Earl have done an outstanding job as Rhode Island District Directors over the last year and half and will continue to wear that hat. Their primary focus will be to bring additional support to the Region with a “support focus” on the New England States.

Linda & I just returned from a soggy weekend in Rhode Island where we attended the New England Rally Meeting and the annual Rhode Island Chapter B Kick-off breakfast. The entire Northeast Region saw a rainy weekend front several weather fronts. Ironically, a rainy Saturday was an excellent day for a meeting.

This years New England Rally in Vernon, CT is shaping up to be an excellent event. Key offerings available are the "Fox & Hound", bus trip to Mohegan Sun, and a guided tour to Excalibur (Honda Dealer) for a BBQ lunch. We will also hold the Northeast Region "Couple of the Year" selection on Saturday. Connecticut Chapter E came out in force to the Rhode Island B kick-off and under the direction of Barry & Suzanne Goldstein (Chapter Directors), are looking forward to welcoming you July 20, 21, & 22, so make your plans to attend the Six State New England Rally.

The month of May kicks off the riding rally season with the Delaware District Rally from the 18th-21st. Lots of exciting things are planned in Harrington, DE including a Friday Night USO Dance, and their excellent Saturday Night Banquet. Need additional information, just visit the Delaware web site at: <http://www.gwrrade.homestead.com>.

As an FYI: There is an addition to the S.I.G. It is the Red Hat's. At Wing Ding this year in Nashville the Red Hat Ladies in G.W.R.R.A. will have a gathering on Tuesday July 3rd from 9 am to 10 am. Schedule will be sent out later. Please pass this on to all members. Chapter Directors could you ask the ladies to e-mail me at conlavender@hotmail.com so Marti, my wife, and I could get a rough head count it would be appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Con & Marti Lavender, Chapter Directors-Chapter Y, Michigan

The above message from Con and Marti is intended to identify any interest within the GWRRA Members for a "Meet and Greet" at Wing Ding for our female Members that are already participating in the "Red Hat Society" or our female Members that would be interested in looking into the group as potential participants.

Please share the information with the ladies of your Districts and Chapters. If they are interested in attending a "Meet and Greet" at Wing Ding, then ask them to please contact Con and Marti Lavender at conlavender@hotmail.com

If there is sufficient interest from our female Members we will consider supporting a Special Interest Group designation for the "Red Hat Society" ladies. This is the first step in the consideration process for establishing a new SIG. Your support is to Con and Marti is appreciated.

That is the latest & greatest, so now that May is here, let the riding begin. Be safe & be well!

Sincerely,

*Jere & Linda Goodman
Northeast Region
Directors*

BEEP! BEEP!



Rider Education

Hi there! Time has gotten away from me again, so this will be a short article.

Congratulations to the Regions newest MFA instructors. These 3 took the instructors course, with several others, at the Fun Shop in March. To finish the training we must present a course in front of a Master Instructor, in this case Tone VanSchaick. Here is what Tony said of their presentation.

“They all did a great job and we traded ideas for future presentation enhancements. Everyone learned something! I would encourage anyone in GWRRA to use these folks as CPR/FA instructors in an MFA class. Congratulations team for your part in collectively certifying three new people to help train the Membership to save lives.”

The new MFA instructors are:

William Keith Price - NY District Educator

Rick Parsons - Asst. NY District Educator, American Heart Association Instructor and EMT

Dan Corby - Intermediate level EMT

Once again congratulations and thank you.

Now, please use them!!

On a different topic. The riding season is barely getting started and the number of accidents so far is amazing. Please people, take it easy for awhile. Let your riding expertise catch up to where you were last September and let the road crews and rain clean the roads. There's a lot of riding season to come, don't rush it and then rush to the hospital.

*Northeast Region Educator
Dick Norton*



MFA CPR and First Aid-from an old friend

Hi GWRRA Friends,

Now that the refueling outage is over at the plant here in Oswego, I was finally able to make a contribution once again. After arranging a mutually beneficial date with Keith Price, a trip was made to Buffalo (Orchard Park) today to observe the first conduct of an MFA CPR and First Aid class for:

- 1) William Keith Price - NY District Educator
- 2) Rick Parsons - Asst. NY District Educator, American Heart Association Instructor and EMT
- 3) Dan Corby - Intermediate level EMT and arranged a classroom at the McGard plant for the course

The class started at 09:00 and completed at 16:00 after which a facilitator debrief was held. There were 7 GWRRA Chapter NY-H students in addition to the 3 facilitator candidates. Keith will be sending the roster to Wayne shortly. (most recent form use was verified)

They all did a great job and we traded ideas for future presentation enhancements. Everyone learned something!

I would encourage anyone in GWRRA to use these folks as CPR/FA instructors in an MFA class.

Congratulations team for your part in collectively certifying three new people to help train the Membership to save lives.

*Ride with Less Risk & B+
Tony & Michelle Van Schaick*



MAD-Motorist Awareness Division

There's been a lot of exciting things going on in the MAD program this past month. First off, we have a new International Director – Ron Jackson from Clearwater, Florida. He'll be working with each of the region MAD coordinators to try and get more information out about what is working in other regions for the MAD program. Another change at the National level is the MAD program now falls under the Rider Education umbrella instead of member enhancement. This gives the program more clout and more protection.

We also have new District Coordinators in New Hampshire. They are Andy and Mary Tarbell. If anyone in New Hampshire would like more information about the MAD program, feel free to contact them. They are also the Rider Ed Coordinators for New Hampshire. Welcome aboard!

Now down to the nitty gritty. May is an important month for the Motorist Awareness Division – it is Motorcycle Awareness Month. If you don't have anything planned, at least try to leave some brochures at a doctor's office, your local driver's ed class, etc. If you do have something planned, please let us know about it so we can include it in our quarterly reports. We need to hear what people are doing.

If anyone is interested, we have a letter to the editor that can be sent to a local newspaper detailing about motorcycle month that can be altered to fit any area. If you'd like a copy of it, please contact us and we'll get it to you.

In May we'll be attending the PennDot Summer Safety day promoting motorist awareness and GW. Plus we're participating in an advertising page in our local newspaper highlighting motorcycle awareness month.

If anyone needs any materials for motorcycle awareness month, feel free to contact us. By the way, our e-mail address has changed – if you have a flyer with our sticker on the back make sure you note that it's not correct. It is now 96purplewing@hughes.net.

*Keith & Kathleen Eddy
Northeast Motorist Awareness Division Coordinators*



Public Relations

I was sitting here thinking about all the programs, activities, and services that the Gold Wing Road Riders Association makes available to its membership. To name a few -Wing World Magazine, Gold Book, Riders Education, Membership Enhancement program, which includes the (Member Retention Program, Couple of the Year Program, Public Relations Program, and Fun & Friendship Program), Leadership Training, Motorist Awareness, Drill Teams, Rescue, Rescue Plus, Wing Ding, District Rallies, Region Rallies, Chapters, etc. I know that I have not listed all the programs but there are so many it's difficult to remember them all especially when you're as excited as I am at this moment. What association do you know of anywhere in the world that shows the concern for its membership as is shown by GWRRA? Did you know that every program you see listed above or that you may not see listed above comes under the blanket of Public Relations? People sometimes fail to realize the need and importance of Public Relations even when they themselves, the members, are performing public relations work every time they wear their logos or show their relationship to GWRRA while in the public's eye. The public views every move GWRRA makes whether it's our own membership, who is part of the public, or the public outside the organization. That is why it is very important to put forth a positive image at all times when representing GWRRA. Our goal is to have Public Relation Coordinators in place from the National Level to the Region, the District, and each and every Chapter. So come on you volunteers accept the challenge and step up and join our team. I feel strongly that when we accomplish this goal our Recruitment, our Membership Enhancement, and every other program that GWRRA offers will benefit from the awareness that will be created by these Public Relations Coordinators as they use all of the media and all the other methods of communication that is put forth in the Public Relations Guide Book. The guidebook is made available on the Membership Enhancement Division WEB site at <http://www.gwrra.org/regional/med>. Take a look. We need to get this information out to the public, and the way we will be able to do this is through the Chapter Public Relation Coordinators. This line of communications from top to bottom and then to the public will become one of GWRRA most powerful means of continuing with success into the future. I think it is fair to say that the public, cyclists and non-cyclists, are not going to look for us if they don't know we are here. Let's show them where we are and for what we stand.

Once more, I would like to give you the address of the MED WEB site. Please visit with us and learn of all the fine programs and other information available.



Region Couple of the Year 2005-2006

Choices

Over the last several months, we have been talking with our friends about GWRRA and what it means to belong. Who would we have met? Where would we have gone? What would we have done? What is the real meaning of friends?

After all, without GWRRA, life would be relatively bland and lonely. Last month, about 80 GWRRA members went on a cruise. While we did not spend every minute of every day with each other, we spent a lot of time talking, talking, talking. We had the time to learn about our friends, spending time doing what friends do most, we listened. With no wings to get on and ride away, the meaning of “friends” became very clear. During our cruise, we had the chance to come across another couple from GWRRA Canada. They joined in as part of our group.

But the real questions, “What does this thing, this GWRRA really mean?” Why belong? Why should we continue since we already have our friends? These questions were not answered.

Since the cruise, we’ve been looking around for an area to move. Our children are grown and no longer live with us. It is time to move on and find some new riding places. Several of our friends were looking south towards North Carolina. We have spent a lot of time in North Carolina on vacations, Honda Hoot and with relatives, so we had an idea about how great the riding can be. So off we went one weekend. Armed with an idea of where we may want to look and the name of a realtor, we set off on our adventure.

Prior to our adventure, a list was created describing what we were looking for in our new home. The first thing on our list, the main priority was a 4 car garage. Simple, 1 space for her car, 1 space for his truck, 2 spaces for (his) Gold Wing, (her) Pacific Coast, the trailer that goes behind the wing and all that other motorcycle stuff.

As it turns out, GWRRA motorcycling has become that important in our lives.

Think of it, we plan our vacations around motorcycle trips and rallies, we plan our weekends a year in advance and make the difficult choices of which event to attend. In our house, we have a color coded calendar with several things to do every weekend. There are so many things to do and not enough time to do them all.

What does it all mean? In life, we have choices, In GWRRA, we just have more. So just look for the 4 car garage.



*Jim (Rosy) & Sandie Rosenthal
Region 2005-2006 Couple of the Year*



Leadership Training

Difficult People?

As we traveled around the Region during the last few years, we have frequently been asked to give suggestions on the best way to handle “difficult” people. Whoa! “Difficult people”? In GWRRA? It can’t possibly be.

It is hard to believe that someone might feel that some GWRRA members are difficult. GWRRA is like a large extended family. But, I don’t know, I have a brother who always manages to get under my skin. He’s family too. So...maybe it is possible that some GWRRA members might get “under the skin” of other members.

Who are these difficult people? I am sure that you have run into some of them. Perhaps it’s The Whiner whose complaining drives you to distraction. Or it may be The Steamroller who makes you crazy—the person who pushes his / her ideas and never lets others get a word in. See if you recognize any of the following difficult people.

- ❖ **The Steamroller (or Tank):** Often seems aggressive and angry. Interacting with them makes others feel paralyzed, as though they’ve been flattened.
- ❖ **The Sniper:** The Sniper’s forte is sarcasm, rude remarks, and eye rolls. He/she makes others look and feel foolish.
- ❖ **The Know-It-All:** Wielding great authority and knowledge, Know-It-Alls do have lots to offer, are generally competent, and can’t stand to be contradicted or corrected. But they will go out of their way to correct you.
- ❖ **The Grenade:** Grenades tend to explode into uncontrolled ranting that has little, if anything, to do with what has actually happened.
- ❖ **The Think They Know It All:** A cock-sure attitude often fools people into believing their phony “facts.”
- ❖ **The Yes Person:** Someone who wants to please others so much that he/she never says no.

- ❖ **The Maybe Person:** Procrastinating, hoping to steer clear of choices that will hurt feelings, he avoids decisions, causing plenty of frustration along the way.
- ❖ **The Blank Wall (or Nothing Person):** This person offers only a blank stare, no verbal or nonverbal signals.
- ❖ **The No Person:** He/she spreads gloom, doom, and despair whenever any new ideas arise, or even when old ones are recycled. The No Person saps energy from a group in an amazingly short time.
- ❖ **The Whiner:** They want things to be perfect, but nothing seems to be right. Whiners want to share their misery.

If you are a Chapter Director or District Director, “difficult people” like those mentioned above can make your leadership experience seem endless and stressful, even blocking achievement of some of your most critical goals. Chances are you have had to deal with at least a few of these characters. These are not odd or weird people. Everyone has the potential to be difficult given the right, or wrong, circumstances.

However, there are ways to deal with those people you consider “difficult”. First and most important, take the time to get to know your difficult person. Successful leaders listen carefully to figure out what lies behind the difficult behaviors. Why is this person acting so difficult?

So what can you do to change the course of your interactions with these difficult people? There are some simple strategies that work well with practice and patience.

In general, when your difficult person speaks make your goal habit number five in Stephen Covey’s *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*: “Seek first to understand.” Some of what the Covey says needs to be repeated. This is a way of feeding back what you’ve heard, on both feeling and content levels, so that a person is sure that you’ve heard him. With no interpretation and without parroting exactly, use some of his actual words to check for understanding.

Get to the real issues. Ask clarifying questions to help your difficult person open up and to ensure that you fully understand all he / she has to say. The kinds of questions you want are open-ended, those to which there is more than a yes or no answer. They begin with what, how, where, who, when, and sometimes why—without an accusatory tone. A simple “Tell me more about...” can also serve the same purpose.

Taking the time to stop and ask for more information is important. It shows that you are interested, that you care, and that you think that what the person has to say might be important. It also keeps you as a leader from switching into the reactive mode...and responding to the negative behavior. Showing the individual respect can defuse emotion and encourage the person to think more logically. If you give respect to a person, you usually will earn that respect back.

Finally, still in a “seek to understand” mode, summarize what you have heard and confirm your understanding. Do not assume you “got it.” Ask, “Did I get it right?” If not, keep listening until the person is satisfied that you understand.

The next step in the process has to do with attitude. Search for and acknowledge that the other person’s intentions are positive. This means giving the person you are dealing with the benefit of the doubt. Ask yourself what positive purpose might be behind a person’s communication or behavior and acknowledge it.

I am sure that each and every one of us might sometimes, given the necessary trigger, turn into a difficult person. When we do, I hope that someone takes the time to stop and listen, to find out why we are acting difficult, and to help us recover our warm spot in the GWRRA family.

*Dottie & Ed Bahrenburg,
Northeast Region Trainers*



Membership

In my effort to bring you fresh, thought-provoking, beneficial, member-specific, relevant, useful information without repeating previous inspiring columns we have written, I sat down with my empty mind and logged onto *gwrra.org* in search of my inspiration. When was the last time you logged onto the GWRRA website? It has changed dramatically and has become much more user friendly. I visited the bulletin board and before I knew it, I was engrossed in reading every question and every answer posted. It's chock-full of maintenance tips, product suggestions, customizing solutions, and everything you ever had go wrong, or had a question about after owning your Wing for any number of years. I even found a link to a company that produces custom vinyl decals for pin striping and customizing your ride at a mere fraction of the cost of paint.

Here it is two hours later and I realize that in my search for a topic, I have been using one of the most valuable membership benefits available to us...the GWRRA website! Do yourself a favor, get a cup of coffee, sit down and log onto *gwrra.org*. Go through the various areas. I guarantee that at the end of your visit, you will not only have stiff legs, but you will be much more educated about your Gold Wing and the Gold Wing Road riders Association. Let me know how you did!

*Roy & Chris Bill
Northeast Region Membership Coordinators*



NE Region & District Web Pages

Northeast Region B at <http://www.gwrra-northeastregion.org>
Connecticut at <http://www.gwrra-ct.org>
Maine at <http://www.geocities.com/gwrramaine/index.html>
Maryland at <http://www.gwrra-md-district.org>
Massachusetts at <http://www.gwrrama.org>
Delaware at www.gwrrade.homestead.com/index.html
New Jersey at <http://www.gwrranj.org>
Pennsylvania at <http://www.gwrrapadist.org>
New York at <http://www.tier.net/~gwrra/district/nydistrict/htm>
Rhode Island at <http://www.gwrra-ri.org>
Vermont at <http://users.adelphia.net/~trikeinvt/index.html>

Events listed from Motorcycle Sounds

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

JULY - 2006

July 3-6, Wing Ding 28, Nashville, TN

(More pre- and post-events, July 1-2 and July 7-8, to come - CHECK BACK SOON FOR MORE UPDATES!)

Wing Ding 28 Checklist of optional tours:

-Steppin' Out at the Wildhorse Saloon (lunch included), July 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8

-The Grand Ole Opry (seating limited), July 1 & 4

-A Country Evening at Smiley's Hollow (a night of dinner, dancing and entertainment under the stars), July 3

-Music Country (tour past the hottest stars' homes - like Alan Jackson), July 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8

-Grand Ole Nashville, (tour past legendary stars' homes - like Ronnie Milsap - and see other legendary points of interest in Nashville), July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8

-Country Music Hall of Fame and Ryman Auditorium (see Elvis's gold Cadillac!), July 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8

REGIONAL EVENTS:

MAY - 2006

May 11-13, Region N Rally, "Appalachian Adventure", Maggie Valley, NC

May 25-27, Region F/Nevada District Rally, "Not Your Typical Rally," Elko, NV

AUGUST - 2006

Aug. 4-6, Region L Rally, Prince Edward Island

Aug. 4-7, Region K Rally, Limoges, Ontario

Aug. 5-7, Region J Rally, Ainsworth, British Columbia

Aug. 17-19, Region I Rally, Powell, WY

Aug. 31-Sep. 2, Region E Rally, "Motorcycle Memories," Des Moines, IA

DISTRICT EVENTS:

MAY - 2006

May 4-6, SC District, South Carolina District Rally, Spartanburg, SC

May 4-6, MO District, Missouri District Rally, Branson, MO

May 11-13, TX District, Texas District Rally, "Fifth Annual Wingfest - Hill Country Reunion 'Denim & Diamonds' ", Kerrville, TX

May 12-13, IN District, Indiana District Rally, "Spring Wing Warm Up", Bloomington, IN

May 18-20, AR District, Arkansas District Rally - "Animal House (Adventure at the Velda Rose Resort Hotel & Spa)", Hot Springs, AR
May 18-21, DE District, Delaware District Rally, "The First Riding Rally from 'The First State' ", Harrington, DE
May 20, NY District, Ride-In, Rochester, NY
May 25-27, NV District, Nevada District Rally, Elko, NV

JUNE - 2006

June 3, ID District, Idaho District Picnic, Challis Hot Springs, ID
June 8-11, OR District, Oregon District Rally, "Wings Along the Umpqua", Roseburg, OR
June 9-11, UT District, Utah District Rally, Cedar City, UT
June 15-17, GA District, Georgia District Rally, Rome, GA
June 16-17, WI District, Wisconsin District Rally, Cable, WI
June 16-17, OK District, Oklahoma District Rally, Stillwater, OK
June 15-18, OH District, Ohio District Rally, Ashland, OH
June 22-24, NE District, Nebraska District Rally, Grand Island, NE
June 29-30 & July 1, WY District, Wyoming District Rally, Buffalo, WY

JULY -2006

July 14-15, MT District, Montana District Rally, Great Falls, MT
July 14-15, MN District, Minnesota District Rally, Alexandria, MN
July 20-22, New England Districts, All New England Districts Rally V, Vernon, CT
July 20-22, WA District, Washington District Rally, Longview, WA
July 27-29, IA District, Iowa District Rally, Amana, IA

AUGUST - 2006

Aug. 3-5, MI District, Michigan District Rally, Midland, MI
Aug. TBA, NY District, New York District Rally, TBA
Aug. 24-25, PA District, Pennsylvania District Rally, Lancaster, PA

SEPTEMBER - 2006

Sep. 1-3, ID District, Idaho District Rally, (Labor Day Weekend), Pocatello, ID
Sep. 1-4, CA District, California District Rally, Santa Clara, CA
Sep. 7-9, CO District, Colorado District Rally, Cortez, CO
Sep. 7-10, NJ District, New Jersey District Rally, Mt.Olive, NJ
Sep. 21-23, NC District, North Carolina District Rally, "Wings over the Smokies", Fletcher, NC
Sep. 23-25, KS District, Kansas District Rally, TBA
Sep. 29-October 1, NM District, New Mexico District Rally, Alamogordo, NM

OCTOBER - 2006

Oct. 5-8, VA District, Virginia District Rally, "Rally in the Valley", Salem V